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THE ESSENCE OF LAW EXPOUNDED BY AN ADEPT AT THE LOCAL BAR

Now this is the tale of a judgment. An honest judge decreed, To swell the county coffers And ease the meek of their head.

Then super-learned counsel With stately mien arose, The defendant, here, your honor, Pays every cent he owes.

He issued a writ to the feeblees That haggle and argue and swear, That the court was smoothly running At date of trial be there.

Then the learned counsel assembled Their volumes of ancient law, English, Irish and Scottish Rollings on which to draw.

The justice whispered—I've hooked it, This legal prey ye seek, The one is a simple layman, The other's a similar geck.

By intricate tricks of the lawyer, Assisted by glib subline, You may clean these worthy litigants Of what's left, when I get mine.

The plaintiff whispered his counsel Do you hear that secondly lie? I'll spend my last good dollar To slip rollers beneath that guy.

The learned counsel argued, They argued pro and con, And had winked each other to settle And confiscate the "spoon."

When the over-wise defendant Gave hint that he had more coin, So counsel motioned his honor They would argue the case again To clean this zealous zealot Of legitimate spoils of the game.

Then the spirit of right and justice, In the heart of his honor 'woke, And he courteously granted the motion, So counsel for plaintiff spoke.

I will not weary your honor With oratorical flights, But rely on simple justice To gain for my clients his rights.

By immutable law of the ages, Your honor must incline, To render to me a judgment, Together with costs for mine.

Untrammelled stands his record For twenty years of thrift, He owes no man, nor ever can For he never lost a shift.

But the plaintiff in this action, By cunning, plot and wile, Through pettifoggling counsel Of equal guile and guile.

Would have your honor to believe This honest man untrue, Would clean him of his hard earned coin— I rest my case with you.

The court passed judgment rapidly, The tension to relieve, The evidence adduced herein, Compels me to believe.

The plaintiff is a "rummy," Likewise defendant, too, It is upon your ignorance The courts and lawyers grew.

Until you learned to change it With brain as well as brawn, You must pay the courts and counsel fees And to their mandates fawn.

Wherefore, it now is ordered, Adjudged, also decreed, You donate about seven dollars For we are sore in need.

Of emoluments of office, Perquisites and the like, With this, you've our permission To once more hit the pike.

—HIS HONOR.

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INSPIRING EMBLEM OF STABILITY ENDURING ON THE COMSTOCK

A California visitor to the Comstock at the time of the Grand Army invasion in June of this year, was an enthusiastic observer of the stars and stripes floating from the flag staff on Mt. Davidson, it being a sight that has stirred the patriotic impulses of thousands of people for a great many years. In fact, the flag pole at this great elevation above the sea level, commanding a wide sweep of the surrounding country, with the snow capped Sierras looming to the west, and the hazy Humboldt range shutting in the eastern horizon, is as much an established institution of Virginia City as any of its famous mines whose fabulous treasures have no peer. The venerable staff, with Old Glory floating to the breeze on the natal day of this country, and on other occasions of great import, is a good omen, and since 1862, with but two slight interruptions, has stood guard over the destiny of this camp; through adversity and prosperity, and through all the decades of epoch making events, it has cast its spell of good luck upon this region. With the flag staff firm and unshaken on its lofty pinnacle, despair has ever given way to hope, and hope to further resolve and worthy endeavor.

To the superstitious, with the flag staff gone, Virginia City might well fold its tent, close the final chapter pronounce the benediction, and forever rest on its laurels. It is of record that the only times the flag staff was torn from its foundation by violent Wahoo zephyrs, were marked almost instantly by a depression in the stock market, and no relief came until the time honored staff was raised again to its rightful position. The two brief lapses were the occasion of feverish haste to replace the emblem, but since the later Bonanza days, 35 years ago on June 30 last, this symbol of stability has stood like the Rock of Gibraltar, and with the city at its feet, has weathered the gales and storms, steadfast and true to its best traditions. It may well be said, as long as the flag staff endures, so the Comstock.

Eagle Engine company No. 3, Tom Peasley foreman, first assumed charge of the peak on the mountain in the year 1863, and in that year erected the first flag staff. It stood until 1865, when it was blown down. Another and better one took its place on July 3, 1865, which withstood the storms of ten winters, when it, too, in the winter of 1875, ten years later, was bowled over by a Wahoo zephyr. At the 1868 raising those who assisted were Andy Peasley, J. C. Harlow, Charles F. Bicknell, Charley Brooks, George Currie, J. W. Hemanway, Jim Malone, Jim Edgerton, Dick Padlock, Leslie F. Blackburn, Alex Corvell. The most sorrowful man in town was Henry Morris, who was about the only man who could climb the staff. It is recorded that he shed tears as large as apple dumplings. But to jump to 1878, the time was lost in getting a start for a new staff and this time Andy Peasley was the moving spirit, the Eagle Engine Co. having long since gone out of existence. It was determined to erect a staff that would endure for all time, and how well they did the job is seen from the fact that after 35 years, "the flag staff is still there." The county appropriated \$150 for the staff, \$150 was raised to transport it to the peak, and a large sum otherwise for the ceremonies and refreshments. Mr. Bickford of the Gold Hill foundry took the contract to deliver the pole of iron tubing, 80 feet long, in three parts, each joint telescoped and joined with iron bands. The pole cost exactly \$120, and Bickford put his personal guarantee on its worth. He certainly made good. The stock market kept going down from January, 1878, until June 30th of the same year, when the pole was successfully planted. It was freely predicted that there was no hope of a boom until that staff was securely anchored.

On June 21 arrangements were all completed for the ceremony on the following Sunday. A fine collation was prepared, with an ample supply of lager beer and other beverages. On Sunday, June 23, 700 people climbed to the summit of Mt. Davidson, but they were doomed to bitter

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OLYMPIC CHAMPION MAKES MORE WORLD'S RECORDS

Alfred P. Lane, the young New Yorker who brought home three gold medals, won with his pistol at the 1912 Olympic games, has kept up his championship stride this year in the international shooting at Camp Perry, Ohio, and Sea Girt, N. J.

Shooting against the crack pistol shots of this and several other countries, Lane won the honor prize of the United States Revolver association at Camp Perry, with the exceptional score of 1558 points out of a possible 1800, and made the high score—485 out of a possible 600—on the victorious United States pistol team leading his nearest team mate by over 20 points.

Latest advices from Sea Girt, N. J., whence many of the shooters went from Camp Perry for the Sea Girt International and Interstate Shooting tournament, credit Lane with several new world's records. In the revolver team match, firing 15 shots slow fire and 15 shots rapid fire at 50 yards, shooting Remington-UMC metalies—the same ammunition used at the Olympic games and at Camp Perry—in a military revolver, the youthful champion broke the world's record with 112 out of a possible 150, slow fire, and equalled the world's record rapid fire, scoring 115 out of a possible 150. His total for the match, 257 out of a possible 300, established still another world's record.

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